

20 November 1986
OCA 86-3920

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Deputy Director

VIA: Dave Gries

FROM: Legislation Division,
Office of Congressional Affairs

STAT

SUBJECT: Pocket Veto of the NASA Authorization Act

On 14 November 1986, the President issued the attached Memorandum of Disapproval explaining why he would not sign the 1987 NASA Authorization Act. Since Congress has adjourned, his action constitutes a "pocket veto" of the legislation.

As you recall, the Act would have established a National Space Council with certain authorities respecting civilian matters. While the Intelligence Community was not happy about the creation of such a council, we decided to stay in the background and let other agencies (e.g., DOD, Transportation) take the lead in opposing the bill within the Administration. The President's statement noted that the Council would unacceptably interfere with his discretion and flexibility as well as unnecessarily duplicate other bodies which currently coordinate the development and implementation of space policy. The statement also expresses concern about other parts of the bill.

Lastly, the President pointed out that his disapproval will not adversely affect ongoing space programs, which have been adequately funded for 1987 by way of the Continuing Resolution.

STAT

Attachment
as noted

cc: D/ICS (w/attachment)

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